(a) whether pro-rata wages are being paid to casual labourers working in P&T Department; and

(b) whether the same is being considered for the Extra-Departmental employees also; if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir. The wages are based on the minimum of the pay Scale of regular employees in the corresponding cadre and D.A. as admissible on that pay.

(b) No, Sir. Extra Departmental Employees are part-time employees generally engaged for Postal work in rural and semi-urban areas for a period upto 5 hours a day. They are local residents with other avocations and sources of income to supplement the income they receive as Extra Departmental Employees. Keeping in view the above fatcors, the allowances of Extra Departmental Employees are fixed between minimum and maximum based on their work load.

Reservation of Clerical Posts for ED Employees

1536. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the recommendation of the Committee regarding reservation of clerical posts for the Extra Departmental employees; and

(b) whether this recommendation has been implemented; if so, to what extent and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Vacancies in clerical cadre are equally apportioned between the Departmental and outsiders candidates. Against departmental quota of vacancies. Lower Grade Officials below the clerical cadre (Group 'D'/ Postman etc.) are eligible to compete. Savoor Committee's recommendations was that 20 per cent vacancies in Departmental quota of clerical cadre should be ear-marked for Extra-Departmental Employees.

(b) The matter was discussed with the Staff Side but they did not agree to the proposal as they apprehended that it will affect the promotional avenues of Departmental Employees. Therefore, the recommendation of the Savoor Committee has not been implemented.

Promotional Avenues of ED Employees

1537. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase promotional avenues for Extra Departmental employees; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) the number of ED employees promoted to Group 'D' and to the cadre of Postman during the last three years, year-wise and so far during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Subsistence allowance to ED Employees

1538. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Posts had agreed to grant subsistence allowance to Extra Departmental employees under 'Pay-off' duty;

(b) if so, what extent this agreement has been implemented; if not, yet implemented, what are the reasons therefor;